

Department of State

§ 141.8

financial assistance shall become effective until (1) the responsible Department official has advised the applicant or recipient of his failure to comply and has determined that compliance cannot be secured by voluntary means, (2) there has been an express finding on the record, after opportunity for hearing, of a failure by the applicant or recipient to comply with a requirement imposed by or pursuant to this part, (3) the action has been approved by the Secretary pursuant to § 141.9(e), and (4) the expiration of 30 days after the Secretary has filed with the committee of the House and the committee of the Senate having legislative jurisdiction over the program involved, a full written report of the circumstances and the grounds for such action. Any action to suspend or terminate or to refuse to grant or to continue Federal financial assistance shall be limited to the particular political entity, or part thereof, or other applicant or recipient as to whom such a finding has been made and shall be limited in its effect to the particular program, or part thereof, in which such noncompliance has been so found.

(d) *Other means authorized by law.* No action to effect compliance by any other means authorized by law shall be taken until (1) the responsible Department official has determined that compliance cannot be secured by voluntary means, (2) the action has been approved by the Deputy Under Secretary for Administration, (3) the recipient or other person has been notified of its failure to comply and of the action to be taken to effect compliance, and (4) the expiration of at least 10 days from the mailing of such notice to the recipient or other person. During this period of at least 10 days additional efforts shall be made to persuade the recipient or other person to comply with this part and to take such corrective action as may be appropriate.

[30 FR 314, Jan. 9, 1965, as amended at 38 FR 17947 July 5, 1973]

§ 141.8 Hearings.

(a) *Opportunity for hearing.* Whenever an opportunity for a hearing is required by § 141.7(c), reasonable notice shall be given by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the

affected applicant or recipient. This notice shall advise the applicant or recipient of the action proposed to be taken, the specific provision under which the proposed action against it is to be taken and the matters of fact or law asserted as the basis for this action, and either (1) fix a date not less than 20 days after the date or such notice within which the applicant or recipient may request of the responsible Department official that the matter be scheduled for hearing or (2) advise the applicant or recipient that the matter in question has been set down for hearing at a stated place and time. The time and place so fixed shall be reasonable and shall be subject to change for cause. The complainant, if any, shall be advised of the time and place of the hearing. An applicant or recipient may waive a hearing and submit written information and argument for the record. The failure of an applicant or recipient to request a hearing under this paragraph or to appear at a hearing for which a date has been set shall be deemed to be a waiver of the right to a hearing under section 602 of the Act and § 141.7(c) of this part and consent to the making of a decision on the basis of such information as is available.

(b) *Time and place of hearing.* Hearings shall normally be held at the offices of the Department in Washington, DC, at a time fixed by the responsible Department official. Hearings shall be held before an official designated by the Secretary other than the responsible Department official, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 3105 and 3344 (formerly Section 11 of the Administrative Procedure Act).

(c) *Right to counsel.* In all proceedings under this section, the applicant or recipient and the Department shall have the right to be represented by counsel.

(d) *Procedures, evidence, and record.* (1) The hearing, decision, and any administrative review thereof shall be conducted with as much conformity as is practicable with 5 U.S.C. 554-557 (formerly sections 5-8 of the Administrative Procedure Act) and in accordance with such rules of procedure as are proper (and not inconsistent with this section) relating to the conduct of the hearing, giving of notices subsequent to those provided for in paragraph (a)

of this section, taking of testimony, exhibits, arguments and briefs, requests for findings, and other related matters. Both the Department and the applicant or recipient shall be entitled to introduce all relevant evidence on the issues as stated in the notice for hearing or as determined by the officer conducting the hearing at the outset of or during the hearing.

(2) Technical rules of evidence shall not apply to hearings conducted pursuant to this part, but rules or principles designed to assure production of the most credible evidence available and to subject testimony to test by cross-examination shall be applied where reasonably necessary by the officer conducting the hearing. The officer presiding at the hearing may exclude irrelevant, immaterial, or unduly repetitious evidence. All documents and other evidence offered or taken for the record shall be open to examination by the parties and opportunity shall be given to refute facts and arguments advanced on either side of the issues. A transcript shall be made of the oral evidence except to the extent the substance thereof is stipulated for the record. All decisions shall be based upon the hearing record and written findings shall be made.

(e) *Consolidated or joint hearings; hearings before other agencies.* In cases in which the same or related facts are asserted to constitute noncompliance with this part with respect to two or more programs to which this part applies, or noncompliance with this part and regulations of one or more other Federal departments or agencies issued under title VI of the Act, the Secretary may, by agreement with such other departments or agencies where applicable, provide for the conduct of consolidated or joint hearings, and for the application to such hearings of rules of procedures not inconsistent with this part, except that procedural requirements of the hearing agency if other than this Department may be adopted insofar as it is determined by the Secretary that variations from the procedures described in this section or elsewhere as may be required under this part do not impair the rights of the parties. The Secretary may also transfer the hearing of any complaint to any

other department or agency, with the consent of that Department or Agency (1) where Federal financial assistance to the applicant or recipient of the other Department or Agency is substantially greater than that of the Department of State, or (2) upon determination by the Secretary that such transfer would be in the best interests of the Government of effectuating this part. Final decisions in all such cases, insofar as this part is concerned, shall be made in accordance with § 141.9.

[30 FR 314, Jan 9, 1965, as amended at 38 FR 17947, July 5, 1973]

§ 141.9 Decisions and notices.

(a) *Decisions on record or review by the responsible Department official.* The applicant or recipient shall be given reasonable opportunity to file with the officer presiding at the hearing briefs or other written statements of its contentions, and a copy of the final decision shall be given in writing to the applicant or recipient and to the complainant, if any. The officer presiding at the hearing shall render a decision on the matter.

(b) *Decisions on record where a hearing is waived.* Whenever a hearing is waived pursuant to § 141.8(a) a decision shall be made by the responsible Departmental official on the record and a copy of such decision shall be given in writing to the applicant or recipient, and to the complainant, if any.

(c) *Rulings required.* Each decision of an officer presiding at the hearing shall set forth his ruling on each finding, conclusion, or exception presented, and shall identify the requirement or requirements imposed by or pursuant to this part with which it is found that the applicant or recipient has failed to comply.

(d) *Appeal.* Either party may appeal from a decision of the officer presiding at the hearing to the responsible Department official within 30 days of the mailing of the officer's decision. In the absence of such an appeal the decision of the officer presiding at the hearings shall constitute the final decision of the Department subject to paragraph (e) of this section.

(e) *Approval by Secretary.* Any final decision by an officer (other than the